

## Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08

SCI-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 IO-14 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 ACDA-19 DRC-01

( ISO ) W

----- 067354

R 221627Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6839

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

/AMEMBASSY FREETOWN 918

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IV

SUBJECT: ARAB DELEGATION VISITS IVORY COAST

DEPT PASS USINT DAMASCAS

REF: ACCRA 324

1. PARLIAMENTARY MISSION OF FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS VISITED  
ABIDJAN JANUARY 17-19. HEADED BY SYRIA'S MOHAMMED TAHAR HADAD,  
OTHER MEMBERS WERE OMAR TOSSON ABDEL-WAHAD OF EGYPT AND ABASS  
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HOUJI OF LIBYA. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE TOOK CARE OF THEM LOCALLY.

2. DELEGATION, WHICH SAID IT CAME TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR IVORIAN BREAK WITH ISRAEL AND SUPPORT OF ARAB SIDE, WENT THROUGH USUAL ROUND OF COURTESY CALLS ON KEY OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO IVORIAN DEPUTY KOUASSI-TOLLAH, WHO SERVED AS ONE OF HOST OFFICIALS, MEETINGS WERE ALL ROUTINE WITH EXCEPTION OF THAT WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. ALTHOUGH SOURCE DID NOT ATTEND THE LATTER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ARABS RAISED SEVERAL CONCRETE QUESTIONS RELATING TO IVORIAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE.

3. NEWS MEDIA REPORTED THAT THE DELEGATION SPENT ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS WITH HOUPHOUET, AFTER WHICH IT PRAISED THE IVORIAN LEADER'S INTIMATE UNDERSTANDING OF MIDEAST AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS AND ALLUDED TO THE DISCREET BUT PRODUCTIVE ROLE HE HAS PLAYED IN SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THAT AREA. IT EXPRESSED HOPE HE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR JUST SOLUTION TO ACCOMPLISH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES AND REESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIANS IN LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. HADAD ALSO TOLD PRESS IN VAGUE TERMS AFTER MEETING WITH HOUPHOUET THAT AFRICA WOULD REMAIN IN PRIVILEGED POSITION ON QUESTION OF PETROLEUM. IT SEEMS THAT FINMIN BEDIE ALSO BORE IN ON SAME PROBLEM AND RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSURANCES. KOUASSI-TOLLAH SAID HIS OWN EFFORTS IN CONVERSATION TO GET DELEGATION TO ENTER SPECIFICS OF ENERGY QUESTION AS IT AFFECTS LDCS RECEIVED BRUSH-OFF.

4. AT DEPARTING AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, HADAD WAS ASKED HIS OPINION OF CRITICISM--COMMON AMONG ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE--OF IVORIAN TARDINESS IN BREAKING WITH ISRAEL. HE REPLIED IT IS BETTER TO REFLECT ON ACTION RATHER THAN TAKE IT PRECIPITIOUSLY. HE SAID HOUPHOUET WAS GIVEN MISSION OF DIALOGUING FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, THAT HE GAVE IN AND BROKE ONLY WHEN HE SAW ISRAEL WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM ITS POSITION. ONCE AGAIN HADAD WAS ASKED QUESTION CURRENTLY IN ALL THINKING IVORIANS' MINDS ABOUT ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES HERE OF PETROLEUM PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT ARABS WILL DO EVERYTHING TO INSURE THAT ECONOMIES OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE HARMED. ONCE ISRAEL HAS LIBERATED OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND HAS PERMITTED PALESTINIANS TO RECOVER HOMELAND AND DIGNITY, THERE WILL BE PETROLEUM GALORE, HE ADDED.

5. IN SUM, VISIT APPEARED RATHER ROUTINE. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S COMMENT TO EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE THAT THINGS LOOKED AS IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY WENT WELL, HIS ONLY REPLY WAS SARCASTIC QUOTE DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? UNQUOTE. IVORIANS WERE HOSPITABLE AND VOLATILE, AS ALWAYS, BUT ONE DID NOT HAVE IMPRESSION THEY WERE OVERJOYED BY IT ALL. THEY LET ARABS DO ALL TME TALKING TO PRESS AND MADE NO PUBLIC DECLARATIONS THEMSELVES. PRINCIPAL IVORIAN CONCERN NOW IS OVER INCREASED PRICE OF PETROLEUM, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THEY RECEIVED ANY REAL SATISFACTION ON THIS FROM VISITORS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ABIDJA00500  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740126/aaaaaxzj.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ACCRA 324  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARAB DELEGATION VISITS IVORY COAST DEPT PASS USINT DAMASCAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005